



SENATOR

MICHELLE A. McMANUS

McManus Minutes



Serving the 35th District • P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing, MI 48909

PHONE: (517) 373-1725 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-305-2135 • FAX: (517) 373-0741

EMAIL: senmmcmanus@senate.michigan.gov • WEBSITE: www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/mcmanus

“This office belongs to the citizens of the 35th district.”

State Senator Michelle A. McManus

Senate votes to expand value added agriculture program

Legislation that would help more people in the agriculture industry benefit from money in the 21st Century Jobs Fund was approved by the Senate Thursday. Senate Bill 1168, which I sponsored, offers a grant and low-interest loan program that would leverage private sector funding to accelerate the development and expansion of value added agriculture. As Michigan's second largest industry, agriculture is a vital and innovative part of our state's economy. The grants and loans will help businesses launch new products or expand their business. Examples include setting themselves up as an agri-tourism destination, marketing organic products or producing and selling other specialty products. The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

Full Senate to consider tax incentives for land conservation

The Senate Finance Committee this week approved my bill, Senate Bill 1004, which would encourage conservation and preservation of land by providing tax incentives for keeping land in a conservation easement. Under current law, a transfer of ownership can cause property taxes to become too much of a burden for individuals. Senate Bill 1004 would amend the General Property Tax Act to say that a “conservational easement” does not constitute a transfer of property for tax purposes. This exception would not include any buildings or structures on the property, just the land itself. Buildings and structures would still be subject to the increase in taxes when a transfer of property occurs under Proposal A. It is my hope that, by providing these incentives, we can encourage more people to keep their land in a conservation easement and help to preserve Michigan's scenic open spaces. The bill now goes before the full Senate.

Contact Me

My door is always open. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding state issues. You can reach my Lansing Office by phone at: 517-373-1725; toll free at 866-305-2135, or contact my Cadillac District Office at 231-775-8599. If you received this as a forwarded message and would like to receive future legislative updates via e-mail, you can sign up at my Web site: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/mcmanus>.